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“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
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QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
Reporting period: January 1 – March 31, 2015
Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

Author’s Name: Irina Mironova, Chief of Party

Julia Popruzhenko, Project Manager

Name of USAID office: USAID Regional Mission Representative Office in Belarus

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Organizational Contact Information:

ChildFund International-Belarus Irina Mironova Chief of Party ChildFund International, Belarus 39 Pushkin Ave., office 16 Minsk 220092 Belarus Phone: 375-172-57-77-08 (09) E-mail: imironova@belarus.childfund.org	USA Headquarters: Melissa Kelly Sr. Early Childhood Development (ECD) Specialist Infants and Young Children ChildFund International USA 2821 Emerywood Parkway Richmond, Virginia 23294, USA Phone: (202) 682-3482 x2387 E-mail: mkelly@childfund.org
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children component is to reduce the number of children in Belarus being institutionalized in state-administered orphanages and boarding schools by supporting at-home family care and moving children out of institutions. In pursuit of this goal, the project aims to foster a cultural environment conducive to family-based care, and move children from institutions into less restrictive environments when prior circumstances necessitate removal from their family home. The project targets are 'social orphans,' i.e., children whose parents are living, but are unable to provide proper care, or children of parents who have been denied parental rights. The project's activities focus on working with families and social service professionals to maintain and reintegrate children within their original family units.

The project has three main objectives:

- Improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and services for families with institutionalized and at-risk children;
- Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers;
- Provide technical assistance to social service providers through policy development, methodology consultations, and advocacy efforts.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter, the project's activities focused on ensuring the sustainability of changes introduced within the previous project years. ChildFund's approach to sustainability included 1) an increase in the number of communities (approximately 65% communities in at least 4 of 5 targeted regions) that implement child protection system reforms and effective preventive and rehabilitation services for OVC families; 2) strengthening the ability of re-training institutes and universities to independently deliver innovative training programs provided by ChildFund and train new cohorts of child protection specialists; and 3) countrywide dissemination of new methodological documents that provide "know-how" on key elements of family-centered child welfare services.

Despite the high level of staff turnover in the child protection system, by the end of March 2015 almost all targeted oblasts demonstrated good progress in achieving the sufficient number of the communities that started implementation of the de-institutionalization model. According to the semi-annual PMEP, Minsk oblast reached 61% of communities (against annual target of 65%); Mogilev oblast reached 55% of communities (against annual target of 65%); and Brest oblast reached 53% (against annual target of 65%). Grodno oblast has already exceeded its annual target of 65% and reached 72% of the communities that started implementation of the de-institutionalization model. It must be noted that all of these communities are at different levels in the de-institutionalization model implementation process. ChildFund will continue providing consultation and methodological support to them.

This quarter was characterized by significant achievements in further dissemination of the experiences of **youth afterschool clubs** in the Vitebsk region. Youth afterschool clubs are an effective service for preventing unnecessary family separation and institutionalization of children that was piloted in 2012-2013 in three communities in Belarus. In partnership with ChildFund, the Polotsk Socio-pedagogical Center, one of three pilot locations for youth afterschool clubs, hosted the Vitebsk Regional Conference to disseminate their experience on youth afterschool clubs as a means to ensure children's right to live in a family. Representatives of 100% of child protection services from all over the Vitebsk region as well as the regional oblast-level authorities took part in the Conference (in total 30 people). As a result of the conference, the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee issued a special order that by the end of 2015 each community in the Vitebsk region will open a youth afterschool club for children from at-risk families. Financial support should be provided through community-allocated resources. ChildFund will monitor the implementation of the committee's decision.

This quarter, two sub-grant projects to pilot two implementation models of **SafeCare** in Belarus were successfully completed. Both models were presented and received recognition at the final roundtables of educational authorities and

specialists from Grodno and Mogilev regions. Local authorities elaborated plans for its further development and geographic expansion using existing community budgets. One model was implemented **in urban areas** in the regional center of Grodno. The other model was implemented **in rural and remote areas** in Chaussy district (Mogilev region). While the urban model was based on mobilizing ECD centers in Grodno city, the rural model involved health care specialists from villages as well as specialists from the local schools. As the result of sub-grant implementation, the number of home visitors and organizations implementing SafeCare home visitation services increased, which helped to double the number of children and families reached.

Implementation of child protection system reforms through the **Family-centered Approach and PRIDE** were supported by step-down trainings conducted by a cadre of local child protection specialists trained as the trainers by ChildFund and partner re-training institutes. This quarter, ChildFund observed a growing leadership of the local trainers. TOT alumni provided step-down trainings to **450** community education specialists (against 237 in the previous quarter) from 171 organizations (schools, kindergartens and rayon socio-pedagogic centers) of 170 localities (against 89 in the previous quarter).

In the context of a high level of staff turnover in the child protection system, the role of universities and re-training institutes in preparing new cohorts of well-trained specialists is essential. ChildFund's project sustainability plan ensures universities and re-training institutes' capacity and motivation to independently deliver innovative training programs. This quarter, during the **networking meeting**, faculty members of six universities and re-training institutes, who were previously trained on the Family-centered Approach and PRIDE methodology, had the unique opportunity to share their experiences, challenges and successes that they faced implementing innovative ChildFund programs.

This quarter, ChildFund disseminated the publication (printed and electronic copies) "Methodological Recommendations on Rehabilitation of OVC Families" that consisted of two parts (Part I: Case Planning and Part II: Casework) among all child protection services in the country. This publication completed the series of methodological recommendations and quality standards that have been prepared by the Task Group since 2007. This series covered the full spectrum of functional areas of the child protection system, including early detection, investigation of child abuse and neglect, case planning and family-centered casework. The feedback community child protection specialists emphasized the exceptional relevance of the Methodological Recommendations for specialists' professional needs and highlighted their straightforward, practical application even by those specialists who have not received specialized training.

The figures below illustrate the main outputs of project implementation during the period between January 1 and March 31, 2015:

- **1,802 parents** and **224 children** utilized community-based prevention and rehabilitation services.
- **519** child protection specialists representing **221** organizations participated in capacity-building events provided by partner re-training institutes, alumni of TOTs and ChildFund specialists.
- **283** specialists -- alumni of ChildFund training programs -- were supported with targeted consultations, and methodological and informational materials provided by ChildFund.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS/OPPORTUNITIES

- This quarter, ChildFund Belarus participated in an external program evaluation arranged by USAID. It was a good opportunity to reflect on and assess 10 years of project experiences

D. LESSONS LEARNED

- The publication and targeted dissemination of the brief report about Youth Afterschool Clubs helped to attract the attention of Vitebsk oblast authorities. The dissemination of this publication, coupled with the advocacy efforts of the specialists from the partner community, led to the official decision to establish this service in each community in Vitebsk oblast.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: *Improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families with institutionalized and at-risk children.*

This quarter, the improved services built on sub-grant and follow-up activities supported in the previous project year. They were delivered through community-allocated resources. ChildFund specialists provided targeted consultations and interventions in order to support the sustainability of the previously established services such as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, SafeCare, PRIDE, and the reformation of the child protection system through multidisciplinary cooperation.

In this quarter:

- **1,802 parents** accessed community-based prevention and rehabilitation services;
- **224 children** were covered by community-based prevention and rehabilitation services;
- **283 child protection specialists** previously trained on SafeCare, PRIDE, Family-centered approach or Parenting Skills Enhancement Program received consultations and methodological and information materials provided by ChildFund;
- **One sub-grant project** was in the process of implementation to develop a home visitation service in Chaussy;
- **450 specialists** participated in step-down trainings by TOT alumni.

SafeCare home visitation services for vulnerable children

SafeCare is a 24-week program providing biweekly home visits for families with children from birth to age 5 that focuses on altering parental behavior in three core domains: (1) health, (2) safety, and (3) parent-child interaction. Home visits focus on training parents to use health reference materials and access appropriate treatment, identify and eliminate safety and health hazards, and increase positive parent-child interactions. The program helps to decrease risk of the different types of child maltreatment. The SafeCare home visitation program is focused on families at risk for child abuse and neglect, such as first-time parents, single mothers and adolescent parents raising children 0-5 years old.

This quarter, two sub-grant projects to pilot two implementation models of **SafeCare** in Belarus were successfully completed. Both models were presented and received recognition at the final roundtables of educational authorities and specialists from Grodno and Mogilev regions. Local authorities elaborated plans for its further development and geographic expansion using existing community budgets. One model was implemented **in urban areas** in the regional center of Grodno. The other model was implemented **in rural and remote areas** in Chaussy district (Mogilev region). While the urban model was based on mobilizing ECD centers in Grodno city, the rural model involved health care specialists from villages as well as specialists from the local schools. As the result of sub-grant implementation, the number of home visitors and organizations implementing SafeCare home visitation services increased, which helped to double the number of children and families reached.

In total, the program reached:

- **38 home visitors** (against 10 in the previous quarter) from 29 organizations (against 8 in the previous quarter) provided SafeCare home visitation services in seven communities.
- **58 children** (against 20 in the previous quarter) from at-risk families and 57 parents were served this quarter in preventing child maltreatment and risks for delinquency.

➤ *For more information, please see Annex 4.*

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

The Parenting Skills Enhancement Program is an 8-10 week program that consists of three training programs according to the age group of children (for ages 0-5, 5-13 and 13-18 years old). Small groups of parents (10-12 people) take part in weekly training sessions about emotional, physical, psychological and sexual violence and its effects on the development of children and adolescents; reasons for a child's misbehavior and methods and skills for non-violent disciplining of children, as well as stress management and self-regulation. The participants are encouraged to foster assertive parenting styles that respect the rights of children and parents. The program helps to prevent child abuse and neglect by addressing the risk factors of child maltreatment such as parental knowledge and expectations of child development, parental attitudes and skills regarding discipline, and using non-violent methods of interaction between parent and child.

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in 42 geographic locations:

- **1,105 parents** (77 groups and individual family consultations) participated in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program this quarter in schools and preschools in **47** geographic locations. **41% of these parents (454 people)** participating in the course were those under supervision of child protection services or those parenting children with disabilities.
- **100%** of all parenting groups were carried out with local communities' resources.

Outcomes of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program:

- 81% of parents reported they demonstrate an assertive parenting style;
- 79% of parents reported that they know the reasons for a child's misbehavior;
- 85% of parents know and practice non-violent methods of discipline;
- 87% reported they know about the stages of a child's development;
- 80% reported understanding a child's feelings and emotions and practicing appropriate reactions.

Family-type Care Development for Orphans (PRIDE model)

The PRIDE model is a resource for the development and support of family-type community care and for families (adoptive and foster parents). PRIDE helps foster and adoptive parents to develop five essential competencies, including: protecting and nurturing children; meeting children's developmental needs and addressing developmental delays; supporting relationships between children and their biological families; connecting children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime; and working as a member of a professional team.

This quarter, the PRIDE training program was implemented in **37** geographic locations in **47 organizations** (please see Annex 1 Project Map) by the alumni of ChildFund using local community resources:

- **235 prospective foster and adoptive parents** participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in 100% of country oblasts: Brest oblast (Baranovichi, Kobrin, Stolin, Drogichin, Brest and Ivatsevichi); Minsk oblast (Soligorsk, Dzerzhinsk, Zhodino, Molodechno and Vileika); Grodno oblast (Volkovysk, Novogrudok, Lida and Smorgon); Mogilev oblast (Bobruisk, Mogilev, Krichev, Belynichi and Gorki); Gomel oblast (Gomel and Dobrush), and Vitebsk oblast (Liozno, Senno, Polotsk, Glubokoe, Vitebsk and Postavy). Of these parents, **187 (80%)** were prospective adoptive parents and **48 (20%)** were foster parents.
- **36 children were provided with family-type care** by the foster and adoptive parents trained this quarter. Nine of these children (**25%**) were adopted.
- **365 foster and adoptive parents** from communities of 100% of country oblasts (6) mastered their parenting skills through the PRIDE in-service program: Brest oblast (Kobrin, Brest and Brest rayon and Ivatsevichi); Grodno oblast (Grodno and Smorgon); Minsk oblast (Cherven, Borisov and Borovliany); Vitebsk oblast (Dubrovenski, Gorodokski, Lepel and Liozno); Mogilev oblast (Kirovsk, Bykhov, Gorki, Mogilev and Krugloe); and Gomel oblast (Rogachev). **49** of the foster parents were provided with the training by two partner Re-training Institutes (Brest oblast and Grodno oblast).

Afterschool Clubs (Day Care Centers for school age children): a Community-based Response to Child Maltreatment

Among at-risk families, there is a large proportion of families experiencing periodic deterioration of their capacity to provide adequate care and support to their children. These situations are usually caused by environmental stress factors (loss of jobs, domestic violence, conflicts, health problems, etc.) coupled with parents' inability to control their addiction to alcohol. A child's removal from the family is still considered by many social service workers and child protection specialists as the best option to protect him/her from abuse and neglect. Afterschool Clubs (Day Care Centers) aim to prevent unnecessary removal of children from the biological family. These centers help to keep family integrity through building a family-support model that is less traumatic for both children and parents. At the same time, the center reduces the impact of psychological trauma for children's development by providing safety and stability for children aged 10 – 15 years. In addition, the model allows parents to maintain custody and responsibility for their children. The development of Afterschool clubs is a project match of the OVC/USAID component supported through a financial contribution received from one of ChildFund's major private donors from the USA.

Three Day Care Centers (afterschool clubs) that were piloted within the project by ChildFund in 2013 allocated budgets to continue the functioning of the Day Care Centers. **27 children** from at-risk families received supportive and rehabilitation services at afterschool care centers in Rogachev and Polotsk.

Rogachev Center reached 15 children (2 girls and 13 boys) and Polotsk Center reached 12 children (7 boys and 5 girls); 75% of the children came from single-parent families. According to the individual observation lists, the service helped 80% of the children to improve their behavior and health. 10 of 27 children were registered with the child protection system. Due to the rehabilitation service, none of these children were removed from the family. None of the children reached started a criminal record. Their parents (**36** in total) were reached through consultations on improving communication and parenting skills.

In partnership with ChildFund, the Polotsk Socio-pedagogical Center, one of three pilot locations for youth afterschool clubs, hosted the Vitebsk Regional Conference to disseminate their experience on youth afterschool clubs as a means to ensure children's right to live in a family. Representatives of 100% of child protection services from all over the Vitebsk region as well as the regional oblast-level authorities took part in the Conference (in total 30 people). As a result of the conference, the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee issued a special order that by the end of 2015 each community in the Vitebsk region will open a youth afterschool club for children from at-risk families. Financial support should be provided through community-allocated resources. ChildFund will monitor the implementation of the committee's decision.

Reformation of the local child protection system

Reformation of the Child Protection System includes a shift from uncoordinated work of the different specialists who often duplicate and overlap their efforts; use subjective and ungrounded decisions about removal of a child from a family and family re-unification; lack knowledge, skills and services for the rehabilitation of at-risk families; and a perception that institutionalization is the best option for orphaned children to the creation of well-coordinated, multidisciplinary teams trained on a family-centered approach, practicing evidence-based decision making based on professional investigation of child abuse and neglect, planning and implementing rehabilitation services according to the individual needs of each family and providing family-type care for children whose parents are unable to demonstrate visible progress in rehabilitation and unable to provide a safe family environment.

By the end of March 2015, **82 communities** in the country had child protection specialists trained and practicing the Family-centered Approach in their daily work. **43 trainers** on the Family-centered Approach, trained by ChildFund since 2010, remain active in **25** communities and also respond to the training needs of neighboring communities of their oblast.

This quarter, ChildFund observed a growing leadership of the local trainers. TOT alumni provided step-down trainings to **450** community education specialists (against 237 in the previous quarter) from 171 organizations (schools, kindergartens and rayon socio-pedagogic centers) of 170 localities (against 89 in the previous quarter). Trainers from Chaussy Socio-pedagogic Center volunteered to conduct a full training program for their peers from Cherikov Socio-

pedagogic Center. The most sustainable approach to the training of specialists and multidisciplinary teams is practiced by the communities that started reformation of the local child protection system within the sub-grant supported by ChildFund.

Promoting sustainability of project services through networking and exchange of experiences

To increase motivation of local trainers and ensure information exchange among partner communities, ChildFund provided consultations and support in coordinating and organizing training events in the local communities.

Targeted consultations and Interventions	
Expected results	Actual results achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular communication and needs assessment; site visits; a series of individual needs-based targeted consultations on the Family-Centered Approach, PRIDE, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, SafeCare Home Visitation Model and the Family-Group Conference methodology will be provided by ChildFund project staff. Information about current needs and anticipated problems will be collected and analyzed in a timely manner. Corrective actions and support will be provided to ensure smooth implementation of the project activities. 	<p>This quarter, OVC project staff continued providing individual consultations on ChildFund programs at the request of partners from communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 specialists from the Socio-pedagogic Centers were assisted with consultations on applying the methods described by the Guidance on Rehabilitation of OVC Family Work developed by ChildFund. 9 specialists were consulted on the PRIDE methodology, including issues on training prospective adoptive parents, national statistics on foster parenting, relationships between foster and biological families, and open adoption. 25 specialists trained by Minsk Oblast Retraining Institute on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were supplied with electronic materials (program manuals, program evaluation tests, handout materials). 113 trainers from 72 organizations received individual consultations on the implementation of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities. Individual supervision and methodological support by ChildFund is critical for the young trainers to remain motivated in organizing and facilitating their first parenting groups. 10 recently appointed directors of socio-pedagogic centers of Mogilev oblast were provided with consultations on methods of implementing the SafeCare home visitation program in preschool education settings. 35 specialists of Chaussy rayon received consultations on possible models of implementing the SafeCare home visitation program and on action planning. 30 education authorities from Vitebsk oblast were presented with the resources developed within ChildFund's project and available to child protection system specialists.

Life Skills for Institutionalized Children

121 institutionalized children continued mastering life skills through life skills education classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chaussy, Volozhin, Divin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. They also continued mastering sewing and carpentry skills, repaired old clothes, created new ones, and practiced cooking.

OBJECTIVE 2. Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers.

The goal of improving the quality of training and education available for social service providers was achieved through partnership with the network of re-training institutes and cooperation with universities that train students of education and social work departments.

This quarter:

- **519** child protection specialists representing **221** organizations participated in capacity-building events
- The Family-centered Approach course was provided by **four** universities while being incorporated into the curriculum of all **six** higher education institutions that train social workers.
- University faculty trained by ChildFund on Family-centered Approach and PRIDE methodology participated in a networking meeting.

Network meeting development for partner universities February 6, 2015	
Expected results	Actual results achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A one-day meeting will be organized for university faculties that were trained on PRIDE and the Family-centered Approach• 80% of participants will report practical application of received knowledge and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 university faculty from six universities participated in the meeting. They discussed opportunities and methods of incorporating the training program on child protection into the university curriculum based on their experiences so far.• Grodno and Brest Universities shared how they have incorporated the programs into the curriculum, which has been approved and adopted by the university administration. Gomel University presented their experience in flexible incorporation of the the courses' content into various forms of teaching available at university (workshops, seminars, etc.).• All participants stressed the importance of such experience exchange meetings between national universities as they boost participants' motivation and enrich their knowledge.• 100% of participating academics reported their intent to continue to incorporate the Family-centered Approach and PRIDE methodology into the university curriculum.

Training Program on a Family-Centered Approach in Child Protection Services

The course on the Family-Centered Approach is incorporated into the regular retraining curriculum in all partner Retraining Institutes. This quarter, no Retraining Institute scheduled the full training program, while workshops on the Family-centered Approach were conducted in **2** partner Re-training Institutes by the alumni of the TOTs conducted by ChildFund in previous project years.

This quarter:

- **25 child protection specialists from 24 organizations** participated in the seminar on the Family-Centered Approach in Grodno Retraining Institute.
- **20 child protection specialists from 18 organizations** participated in the seminar on the Family-Centered Approach in Gomel Retraining Institute.

Sustainability of Family-Centered Approach through Universities

80% of university faculty members trained in Year 8 continue to deliver courses on the Family-centered Approach to university students. This quarter, the training program was provided to

- **21 students** from Gomel University
- **50 students** from Vitebsk University
- **40 students** from Mogilev University
- **67 students** from Brest University

PRIDE model

This quarter, a total of **234 specialists** from **130 organizations** participated in trainings held by the alumni of TOTs on the PRIDE Model by ChildFund in socio-pedagogic centers (Smorgon, Dyvin, Bykhov, Gorki, Polotsk and Postavy) and universities (Mogilev State University and Vitebsk State University).

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

This quarter, **25 specialists** from **25** rayons of Minsk oblast enhanced their skills at the TOT training organized by the Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute. ChildFund assisted the retraining institute in assessing the oblast's needs for trainers on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and planning and conducting targeted recruitment of the training participants. The assessment and recruitment was carried out in accordance with the sustainability plans designed for Minsk oblast to implement the full model of de-institutionalization. **40%** of the group was social pedagogues whose primary work focus was on children at social risk. The rest of the group was school psychologists and support staff who take responsibility for prevention activities with all families.

<i>Public awareness campaign on promotion of safe parenting</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual results achieved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A series of publications in media to highlight the importance of family environment and emphasize the effectiveness of safe parenting to children's healthy development.• The demand for the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities increases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The campaign objectives, target audience and design were developed. The campaign is planned to include ChildFund participation in a national TV talk show, the launch of a webpage to refer interested audiences to program trainers, and a series of success stories published in local press of targeted communities.• Printing materials and posters were designed. Trainers of the targeted communities were provided with guidance materials and consultations on phone manner skills to help them be more parent-focused and ensure all interested parents receive the service of parenting skills training.• The campaign will begin in Quarter 3 to match the Family Day celebration in order to boost the effect.• So far, ChildFund participated in a roundtable meeting on non-violent parenting held by the national press Zviazda. The material appeared in a weekend issue on January 22, 2015. The link is: http://zviazda.by/2015/01/68585.html

Training Program on social and financial education for children and youth (Aflatoun methodology)

Grodno Retraining Institute provided a 40-hour Aflatoun program course (social and financial education for children) to **21 specialists** from **18** schools of Grodno oblast. The training was provided by the alumni of the Aflatoun TOT held by ChildFund in the previous year. The course provided specialists with skills to effectively teach social and financial skills to students, which is in-line with the Ministry of Education and National Bank policy of promoting financial literacy.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide technical assistance to social service providers through policy development, methodology consultations, and advocacy efforts.

Advocating for dissemination of innovative methodologies in Vitebsk oblast

A ChildFund specialist was invited to the Vitebsk oblast seminar for education specialists 'Fulfilling the right of children for family' on March 19, 2015. ChildFund presented to education authorities of 20 rayons of Vitebsk oblast the resources that were developed within the project for the programs that were successfully implemented by its partners and are available for use by any child protection institution. These include the Family-centered Approach, PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and Youth Afterschool Clubs. Participants of the meeting were referred to the communities they can learn from, and also were provided with the electronic copies of a manual for child protection caseworkers "Methodological Recommendations on Rehabilitation of OVC Families". The participants were very interested in the Family-centered Approach and PRIDE. The ChildFund specialist facilitated negotiations between rayon Departments of Education and the Vitebsk Oblast Retraining Institute regarding training on these methodologies in 2015. Representatives of the Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee were very supportive of the idea.

Distribution of the manual "Methodological Recommendations on Rehabilitation of OVC Families" for protection specialists that consisted of two parts (Part I: Case Planning and Part II: Casework)

This quarter, **50** paperback and **170** electronic copies of the manual were distributed amongst child protection authorities and specialists as the comprehensive reference for the organization of the rehabilitation process, case management and closing, and effective assessment of the work carried out. Every set of manual materials was supplemented with a one-page guide on its application that suggested how child protection specialists – from caseworkers to authorities – could benefit most from using the manual. Specialists that received the manual shared their reviews with ChildFund.

In addition, ChildFund staff members presented at the following seminar and wrote the following article:

- ChildFund's did a presentation at the **National seminar 'Training of education managers on inclusive education and heterogeneous learning environment'** – March 11, 2015.
- ChildFund's trainer on PRIDE methodology Natalia Myakenya was assisted by ChildFund specialists in writing an **article 'Foster family. PRIDE model: Resources for parents' that was published** in the national professional journal 'Dialogue' #3, 2015.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Coordination with USAID

Irina Mironova, ChildFund's Chief of Party, and Jahor Novikau, USAID AOR communicated regularly through meetings, e-mails, and phone calls.

On March 10, 2015, Dr. Paul M. Carter, Director for Eurasia Office of the Coordinator of US Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (EUR/ACE) visited the ChildFund Belarus Office. ChildFund provided Dr. Paul M. Carter with a project presentation and answered his questions about the project implementation strategy and outcomes.

On March 20, 2015 Anita Anastacio, Director of Child Development and Protection and Maria Redini, Senior Business Development Manager from the ChildFund International Office and Irina Mironova, ChildFund Belarus Chief of Party had a meeting with Mrs. Judith Robinson, USAID Belarus Desk Officer, and USAID program specialists at USAID

Washington DC. Irina updated USAID about the project outcomes and discussed its further development.

Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters

ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication with ChildFund International's Headquarters in Richmond via e-mail and Skype. In March 16-19 Irina Mironova visited ChildFund IO Office in Richmond and Program Department Division in Washington DC . The external evaluation draft reports were discussed and ChildFund's comments were drafted together with IO specialists. Further plans for documentation of project experience by ChildFund IO team were discussed.

New partnership with Belarussian State Pedagogical University

ChildFund hosted a site visit for 17 students from Belarussian State Pedagogic University that study social work. ChildFund used this opportunity to demonstrate approaches to social work that are based on practical methodologies. Also, ChildFund program specialists explained how an NGO can participate in child protection system development and be a valuable stakeholder on par with state organizations and authority institutions.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ChildFund Belarus has held weekly project review meetings in Minsk to strengthen project management, performance, and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

V. BUDGET

Project expenses for the period between January 1 and March 31, 2015 totaled **\$56,956.21** (27% of the annual budget) including ICR.

The SF-425 report was submitted under separate cover by ChildFund's Headquarters.